FROM THE PAGES OF 52 AND COUNTDOWN COMES...

BLACK ADAM

5
OF 6
FEB '08

TOMASI
MAHNKE
ALAMY

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

I WAS VOID OF FORM UNTIL SHE TOUCHED ME.

UNTIL SHE TOUCHED MY HEART.

TOUCHED MY SOUL.

IT IS ONLY THROUGH THE MAGIC AND POWER THAT STILL RESIDES WITHIN HER BONES THAT I AM ABLE TO CALL DOWN THE LIGHTNING AND HASTEN THIS QUEST.

BUT WITH EACH BOLT OF LIGHTNING THAT TEARS ME APART, I FEAR IT TEARS ME EVEN FURTHER AWAY FROM THE POSSIBILITY OF HER TOUCH.

THE LONGER I WIELD THE POWER OF THE GODS, THE LESS LIKELY THAT I WILL HOLD THE LOVE OF MY LIFE IN MY ARMS ONCE AGAIN.

AND THE THOUGHT OF THAT IS MORE THAN I CAN BEAR.

BLACK ADAM THE DARK AGE

PART FIVE

PETER J. TOMASI: STORY AND WORDS - DOUG MAHNKE: PENCILLER
CHRISTIAN ALAMY & RODNEY RAMOS: INKERS - NATHAN EYRING: COLORIST - ROB LEIGH: LETTERER
HARVEY RICHARDS: ASSISTANT EDITOR - MICHAEL SIGLAIN: EDITOR - COVER BY DOUG MAHNKE

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

SOMEWHERE IN THE BOHAI SEA.

ANOTHER PIECE OF MY SHATTERED HEART BECKONS TO ME UNDER THESE COLD WATERS.

THE INTENSE PAIN THAT COURSES THROUGH MY HAND IS A WELCOME SIGN THAT I DRAW NEARER TO ISIS' AMULET.

I CAN FEEL EVERY MUSCLE FIBER AND NERVE ENDING REELING OUT THROUGH MY PALM, AS THE AMULET LOCKS ON MY PRESENCE AND PULLS ME TOWARDS IT AS IF A TETHER TO MY VERY CORE.

I AM SURE THESE CHINESE SEAMEN BEAR ME NO ILL WILL AS I INTRUDE UPON THEIR UNDERSEA TOMB.

LITTLE DID THEY REALIZE THAT THEIR BRIEF LIVES WOULD SERVE AS JUST ANOTHER USELESS MONUMENT TO NUCLEAR FOLLY.

THE ONLY VICTORS ARE THE FISH.

AT LEAST THEY WERE ABLE TO ENJOY A FEAST.

ZHANJIANG, CHINA. SOUTH SEA FLEET BASE.

〈EXCUSE ME, CAPTAIN, I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A STRONG SIGNAL FROM OUR REMOTE MOTION DETECTOR ON THE JL-1.〉

〈IT INDICATES A HUMANOID WAVEFORM.〉

〈THAT WAS THE VESSEL WE LOST OFF OF ZHIFU ISLAND THAT WAS NEVER MADE PUBLIC?〉

〈YES, SIR. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN SEVEN YEARS THAT A SIGNAL HAS BEEN TRANSMITTED.〉

〈I WILL NOTIFY FLEET COMMISSAR XIANPING.〉

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

BEIJING.

...

〈ARE YOU SURE, CAPTAIN?〉

〈WE ARE, VICE ADMIRAL.〉

〈IT IS MOST ASSUREDLY A HUMAN FORM. OUR REMOTES ARE QUITE ACCURATE.〉

〈THEN FOLLOW PROCEDURE TO THE LETTER.〉

〈DETONATE ALL WARHEADS. DO NOT LEAVE ANY EVIDENCE OF OUR "MISPLACED" XIA CLASS SUBMARINE.〉

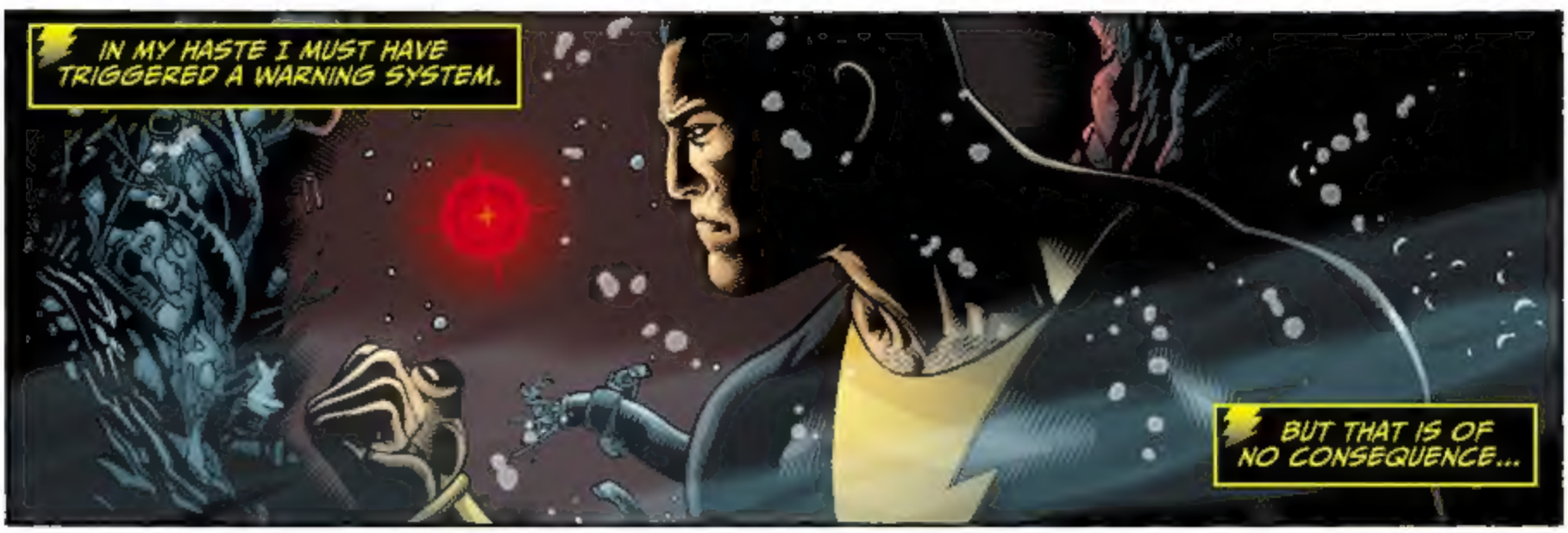
〈IF AND WHEN THE BLAST IS DETECTED, WE WILL EXPLAIN IT AWAY AS UNDERSEA NUCLEAR TESTING.〉

〈UNDERSTOOD.〉

I AM CLOSE.

IT LIES SOMEWHERE OUTSIDE THIS HULL.

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics



visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

...EXCEPT FOR THE INNOCENT SEA LIFE THAT NOW FORFEITS THEIR LIVES AND HOME.

FOR THAT I AM TRULY SORRY.

ONCE WORD OF THIS CATASTROPHE REACHES AQUAMAN, I IMAGINE HE WILL BE QUITE UNHAPPY TO HEAR THAT A PORTION OF HIS KINGDOM WILL BE UNINHABITABLE FOR AGES TO COME.

BUT THAT TOO IS NEITHER HERE NOR THERE.

I HAVE SOMEWHERE I NEED TO BE.

AND REMAINING AS BLACK ADAM ANY LONGER RIGHT NOW IS NOT AN OPTION.

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

KRAKOOM

Umm...

I FEEL THE STITCHES PULL ACROSS MY WOUNDS LIKE A BROKEN ZIPPER FORCED ACROSS ITS TEETH.

I WILL NOT HEED THE PAIN.

SHOW ME.

THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT MATTERS AT HAND.

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

JSA HEADQUARTERS. NEW YORK CITY.

TZZ

TZZZ

THERE.

NOW THAT I'VE FINALLY SEPARATED YOU TWO...

...MAYBE I CAN FIGURE OUT WHY---

FWAAASH!

OH BOY.

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

...IN A TIME OF *CRISIS* WE MONITOR EVERYTHING.

YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN, IN THE MIDST OF ALL THE CHAOS, THAT SOMEHOW YOU'LL GET-- EXCUSE THE WORD-- *LUCKY.*

AND AS MUCH AS I HATE TO SAY IT, ON THAT HORRIBLE DAY IN GOTHAM WE DID INDEED *GET* LUCKY.

WHAT OUR SUPER-POWERED FRIENDS CALL THE "ROCK OF ETERNITY" EXPLODED INTO THOUSANDS OF PIECES, SHOWERING MY FELLOW CITIZENS WITH PAIN AND DEATH.

AS YOU CAN SEE HERE ON THE SCREEN, THE BEING KNOWN AS THE SPECTRE WENT ON A DESTRUCTIVE RAMPAGE THAT DEFIES IMAGINATION.

BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP OUR *SPECIAL TEAMS* FROM BEING ON THE LOOKOUT FOR ANYTHING THAT CAN BE-- WELL, LET'S JUST SAY *HELPFUL* AT SOME LATER DATE AND LEAVE IT AT THAT.

EVERYTHING COUNTS.

EVERYTHING MATTERS.

AND GOD, BUDDHA, AND ALLAH IS IN THE DETAILS, GENTLEMEN.

visit **viewcomic.com** to read full comics

CAMP DAVID. FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND.

SO, FROM SOMETHING COMES SOMETHING ELSE.

THIS FIFTY CALIBER BULLET *IS* THAT SOMETHING ELSE.

WITH A GREAT DEAL OF DEDICATION AND DOLLARS, WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO FORGE FROM WHAT WE'VE COME TO BELIEVE IS A MYSTICAL PIECE OF ROCK--EXCUSE THE PUN--INTO A LITERAL ***MAGIC BULLET.***

A MAGIC BULLET THAT WE HOPE CAN FINALLY END THE LIFE OF BLACK ADAM, WHO, WE ALL KNOW, IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COUNTLESS DEATHS AND INCALCULABLE DEVASTATION...

...ALONG WITH BEING A SUPER-POWERED INDIVIDUAL WITH-- SHALL WE SAY-- MOTIVATIONS AND IDEAS THAT ***POSE*** A THREAT TO ***ALL*** OUR NATIONS.

ADAM ***NEEDS*** TO BE STOPPED.

AND I AM HEARTENED TO SEE THAT WE'VE PUT DIFFERENCES ASIDE AT THIS TABLE AND EMBRACED OUR ***COMMON BOND*** AND PLACED ***THE*** OBJECT OF ADAM'S ANNIHILATION INTO THE HANDS OF...

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

...A UNITED NATIONS...

...A UNITED SHOW OF FORCE THAT, THOUGH COVERT, IS FOR THE GOOD OF ALL MANKIND.

AS YOU CAN SEE BY OUR REMOTE CAMERAS, THE BLACKHAWK CHOPPERS ARE IN THE AIR 24/7 AND CONSTANTLY TRACKING HIM THANKS TO THE PREVIOUS GENERATION OF URANIUM BALLISTIC MATERIAL THAT IS NOW AIDING OUR FORCES DUE TO THE WOUNDING OF TETH-ADAM SEVERAL DAYS AGO.

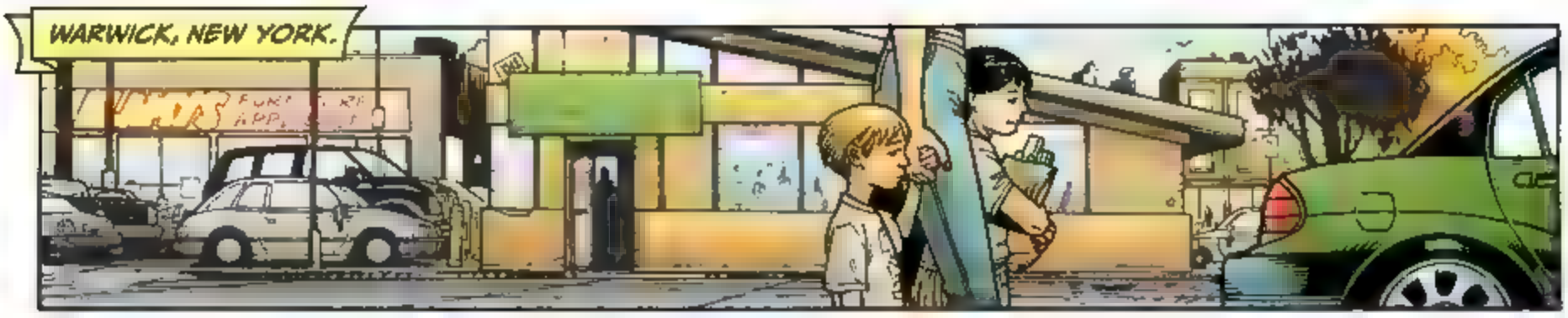
ALL WE CAN DO NOW IS HOPE AND PRAY THAT ADAM IS FOUND, AND THIS NEWLY MANUFACTURED BALLISTIC WILL PERFORM THE LETHAL FUNCTION IT WAS SPECIALLY CREATED FOR.

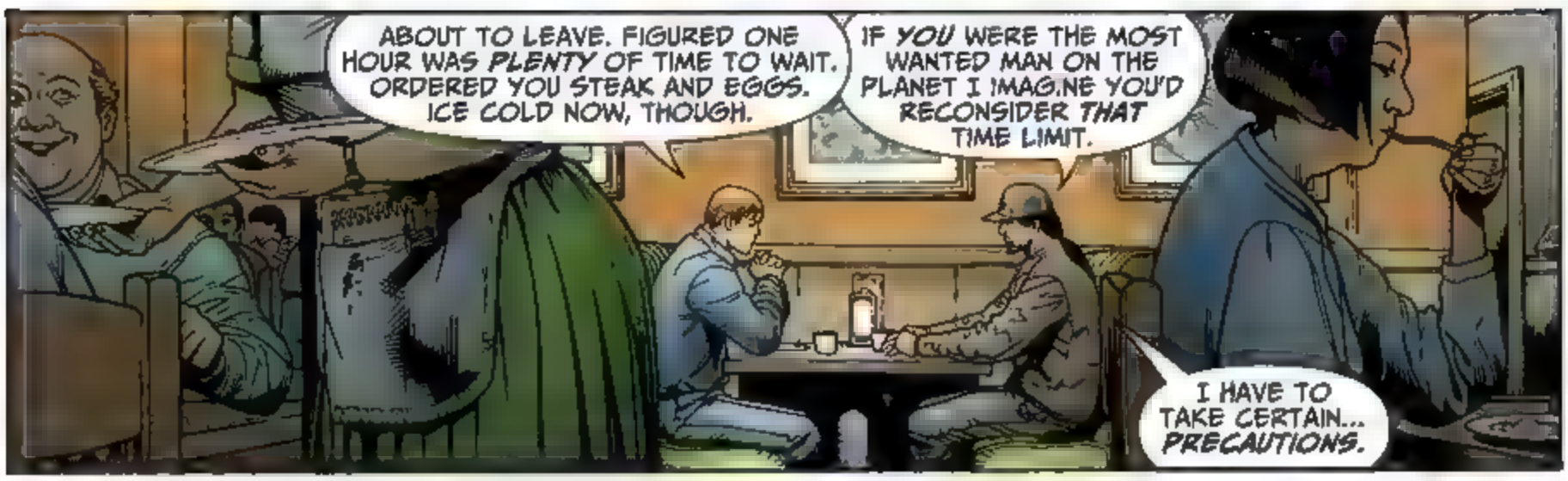
ONCE ADAM IS BROUGHT TO JUSTICE, ALL THAT WE LEARN ABOUT HIS PHYSIOLOGY WILL BE SHARED.

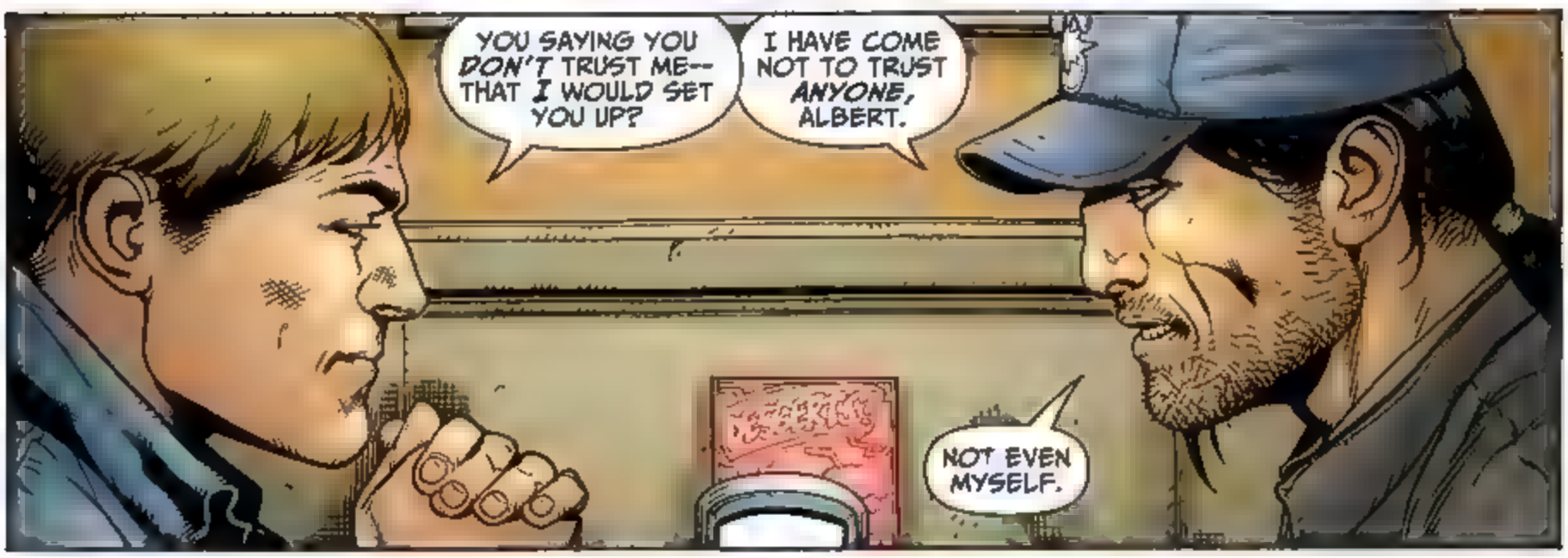
AND THE PROPERTIES AND MANUFACTURING DETAILS OF THE SO-CALLED MAGIC BULLET-- WILL THIS INFORMATION ALSO BE SHARED AMONG US ALL?

ALL IN DUE TIME, SERGEI, ALL IN DUE TIME.

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics




ABOUT TO LEAVE. FIGURED ONE HOUR WAS *PLENTY* OF TIME TO WAIT. ORDERED YOU STEAK AND EGGS. ICE COLD NOW, THOUGH.
IF *YOU* WERE THE MOST WANTED MAN ON THE PLANET I IMAG.NE YOU'D *RECONSIDER THAT* TIME LIMIT.
I HAVE TO TAKE CERTAIN... *PRECAUTIONS.*



visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

SURPRISED YOU STILL HAVE THE OLD JSA COMMUNICATOR AND THAT IT STILL WORKS.

AS WAS I, SINCE YOU TRIED TO RAISE ME ON AN OUTDATED FREQUENCY.

FEELS LIKE YOU SHOULD TAKE *THIS* BACK. YOU'VE CAUSED ENOUGH TROUBLE FOR YOURSELF LATELY.

DO YOU MISS IT?

"IT"?

THE JSA.

NO. I DO NOT. *TOO* MANY QUESTIONS, AND WORST OF ALL, *TOO* MANY OPINIONS.

THE TIME FOR *THAT* KINDA THINKING IS OVER. THIS ISN'T A WORLD OF DICTATORS, TETH.

DON'T BE SO NAIVE, ALBERT. IN EVERY SHAPE, COLOR AND SIZE, FOR AS LONG AS TIME IS MARKED, IT WILL *ALWAYS* BE A WORLD OF DICTATORS.

NOW, *TIME* IS OF THE ESSENCE. WHY DID YOU REQUEST THIS MEETING?

I FOUND *SOMETHING* AT *HER* TOMB IN KAHNDAQ--SOMETHING THAT I THOUGHT *YOU* SHOULD HAVE.

YOU MUST HAVE DROPPED IT IN THE FIREFIGHT.

AND YOU DID NOT SHOW IT TO THE OTHERS?

NO.

AND HER WEDDING RING?

DIDN'T FIND IT. SCAVENGERS MOST LIKELY.

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

SO YOU CALLED THIS LITTLE TÊTE-À-TÊTE TO GIVE ME A GIFT?

JUST GO AWAY, TETH.

DISAPPEAR.

AND WHAT IF I TOLD YOU *THAT* SIMPLY WAS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME?

FIND A HOLE, TETH. A *DEEP* HOLE.

LIVE YOUR LIFE, AND IF YOU MANAGE TO DO WHAT I THINK YOU'RE DOING WITH ISIS' BONES, THEN YOU SHOULD BE CONTENT.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE A *GRAVE* TO ME, ALBERT, NOT A LIFE OF CONTENTMENT.

DAMN IT, I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOUR LIFE.

OH, *THAT* SOUNDED MORE LIKE AN *ULTIMATUM* TO ME.

DON'T *FORCE* MY HAND.

OR WHAT? YOU'LL *INCREASE* YOUR SIZE AND STRENGTH, BECOME TWENTY FEET TALL AND THROW ME INTO THE NEXT BUILDING AND GRIND MY BONES TO DUST?

I *CAN* CALL DOWN THE LIGHTNING AGAIN.

I KNOW YOU KNOW THAT. THE JSA HAS BEEN TRYING TO TRACK ME WITH EVERY CHANGE.

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

ALL THESE PEOPLE--EATING HERE AMONG US--DID NOT WAKE KNOWING THAT *TODAY* WOULD BE THEIR *LAST DAY* ON EARTH, THAT THEY WOULD BECOME COLLATERAL DAMAGE IN A BATTLE BETWEEN US.

JUST SAY THE WORD AND I'LL SAY *MINE*, AND WE CAN SEND ALL THESE GOOD PEOPLE INTO THE ARMS OF THEIR WAITING GODS.

THANK YOU FOR *THIS*. I HOPE ONE DAY *SHE* CAN THANK YOU FOR YOUR GOOD DEED.

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU WISH FOR.

A HOPE AND A WISH ARE TWO VERY DISTINCT THINGS.

IF YOU SAY SO.

WE HAD SOME *GRAND PLANS* ONCE, YOU AND I.

YEAH, WELL, SOME THINGS *DON'T* WORK OUT THE WAY YOU WANT THEM TO.

YES. OF *THAT* I AM FULLY AWARE.

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

ALL THOSE INNOCENT PEOPLE IN BIALYA-- I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- WHY--IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO--

I WILL ANSWER ONLY TO *SEKHMET* AND *SHEZMU* FOR MY SINS IN THE NETHERWORLD, ALBERT.

IF IT *GIVES* YOU AND YOUR ASSOCIATES ANY *COMFORT*, IN THE NETHERWORLD I WILL BE DEPRIVED OF MY SENSORY ORGANS AND FORCED TO EAT MY OWN EXCREMENT FOR ALL ETERNITY.

MY SOUL AND SHADOW WILL BE BURNED IN A CAULDRON OF HELLFIRE, AND I WILL BE FORCED TO SWIM IN THE BLOOD OF MY VICTIMS.

YEAH, WELL, JUDGMENT DAY'S A BITCH.

EVERY DAY IS JUDGMENT DAY.

REALLY GLAD TO HEAR YOU GOT SOMETHING YOU'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO.

GOODBYE, ALBERT.

GOODBYE, TETH.

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

BRAZIL. DEEP IN THE AMAZON. WEEKS LATER.

IT FEELS CLOSER THAN EVER.

THE DREAM TAKES SHAPE.

RAIN. BARK. HACK. SLASH. SLOG. TREK.

GRASS. FOLIAGE. INSECTS. EMERALD. FOREST.

I PUSH IT AWAY.

I WILL NOT LET IT INTRUDE--I WILL NOT LET IT DISTRACT ME--UNTIL MY HAND FINALLY AND TRULY RESTS ON THE WARM ARCH OF HER BACK.

MY FINGERS FEEL AS IF THEY WILL FLY OFF MY HAND AHEAD OF ME.

MY MISSION KEEPS ME ANCHORED.

PAIN. HUNGER. STENCH. ROT.

LIZARD. CANOPY. CHOP. VINES. DAMP. MUD. BLOOD.

I COME IN PEACE.

viewcomic.com

THEIR STARES CONFIRM IT.

THEY BELIEVE THEY ARE IN THE PRESENCE OF A GOD.

I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DISSUADING THEM OF THAT NOTION.

I WILL DO NO HARM.

I BEAR YOU NO ILL WILL.

THE LIGHT ZEROES IN ON THE TREE IN THE CENTER OF THE VILLAGE.

IT IS THERE THAT IT MUST RESIDE.

IT SEEMS AS IF I HAVE DISTURBED A CELEBRATION OF SOME KIND.

A CELEBRATION OF LIFE.

A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP.

WORSHIP FOR WHAT I HAVE COME TO RETRIEVE.

WHAT I HAVE COME TO TAKE.

WORSHIP FOR A PIECE OF ISIS' AMULET.

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

I STAND HERE STARING AT THE AMULET EMBEDDED IN THE TREE FOR WHAT SEEMS LIKE HOURS.

THE SLOW AND MEASURED BREATHING OF THE PREGNANT WOMEN AT MY FEET COMFORTS ME.

CALMS ME.

I SHOULD BE MAKING MY WAY BACK TO HER...

BACK TO US...

LEK-GA-WA NGI-YA-NGGA-JAN BORAN-LEYING, GUK-GA-Y-ALE.

INSTEAD I FIND MYSELF STARING AT THE DIRT WHILE THE VILLAGE CHIEF RECOUNTS A STORY OF BARREN WOMEN AND A VILLAGE ON THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION.

UNTIL ONE DAY A GIFT FROM THE GODS LANDED IN THEIR MIDST AND THEIR WORLD CHANGED.

BOLWO-GUN-WU.

WHERE ONCE THERE WAS ONLY THE SMELL OF DECAY AND DEATH...

...NOW THERE WAS LIFE AND HOPE.

I TAKE THE STICK FROM HIS WEATHERED HAND AND COMMIT TO THE SAND A DRAWING OF MY OWN.

A DRAWING THAT INFORMS THE VILLAGE CHIEF THAT I AM HERE TO TAKE THIS GIFT OF LIFE BACK TO THE SKY WHENCE IT CAME.

THAT HAPPINESS IS NOT FOREVER GRANTED.

THAT THOSE WHOM THE GODS LOVE, THEY ALSO DESTROY.

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

I AM SORRY.

I TURN TO LEAVE AND INSTEAD STARE INTO THE PLEADING AND SORROWFUL EYES OF A FLAT-BELLIED YOUNG GIRL WHO HAS NO OTHER WISH THAN TO BRING A LIGHT AND LIFE INTO THIS DARK WORLD.

GU-NAWUTJ-JAN.

BORNH MAMA GI-BU-N.

HER TOUCH IS GENTLE YET FIRM, AS SHE SLOWLY TRIES TO PEEL BACK MY FINGERS AND RETURN THE AMULET TO ITS NICHE ON THE TREE.

NGE-GE-JAN-WU, NAP-BA MARTDAL-LEYING!

WHILE THE CHIEF'S HARSH AND BITING WORDS SPLIT THE AIR— HE IS A MAN WHO HAS NO INTENTION OF LETTING EVEN A GOD DECIMATE HIS LIFE AND PEOPLE.

CRUEL TO BE KIND.

THEY ARE THE ONLY WORDS THAT COME TO MIND AS I TOSS THE GIRL INTO THE CROWD.

WELL, ACTUALLY, THAT IS A LIE.

I DO BELIEVE THE PHRASE "RUN LIKE HELL" IS CLOSE BEHIND.

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

I HEAR IT BEFORE I SEE IT.

I WAS HOPING THAT I WOULD NOT HAVE TO CALL DOWN THE LIGHTNING ON THIS LEG OF THE JOURNEY.

THAT I WOULD NOT LEECH ANY MORE POWER FROM MY LOVE'S BONES.

UNFORTUNATELY, THAT IS NOT TO BE.

ISIS!

KRAK

FOR LYING IN THE RAVINE BELOW LIKE A TOSSED-ASIDE RAG DOLL WITH ARROWS AND DARTS JUTTING FROM MY SKIN IS NOT AN OPTION.

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

I LEAVE A LUSH PARADISE OF HARDSHIP AND CONTINUE ON MY WAY.

SOUTH IT IS.

WHERE MY FINAL PIECE AWAITS.

AWAITS MY TOUCH...

...IN THE BARREN BLEAKNESS OF ANTARCTICA.

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

visit viewcomic.com to read full comics

DONATE